

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF
WOLVERTON
FOR THE YEAR 1937.



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STONY STRATFORD,

May 21st, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Wolverton.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to forward the nineteenth annual report of the Urban District of Wolverton for the year 1937, with the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Copies of the report will be sent to the Ministry of Health, Home Office and Bucks County Council.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	5,490
Population (Registrar General's estimate), mid 1937	...	...	...	...	12,830
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1936)	...	...	...	...	4,050
„ houses added during 1937	...	...	...	...	86
„ houses demolished during 1937	...	...	...	...	16
Total inhabited houses at end of 1937	...	...	...	...	4,120
Rateable Value (end of 1937)	...	...	...	...	£66,667
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£278

There is again a fall in the population, this year by 70, but 70 new houses have been added, and many are being built.

Social Conditions.

The general condition of the population still remains healthy and prosperous.

At Wolverton, the chief centre of employment, there are situated the Carriage and Wagon Works (London, Midland & Scottish Railway), where 4,299 males and 224 females are employed, and Messrs. McCorquodale's Paper Works, where 560 females and 205 males (total 765) find employment.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	Males	Females
Live Births	Legitimate ...	132	62	70
	Illegitimate ...	5	4	1

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	10.6
Birth rate, England and Wales	...	14.9
Still births, 4. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	...	29.19

	Total	Males	Females	
Deaths	...	...	...	...
	170	96	74	
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...			13.25
Death rate England and Wales	...			12.4

Deaths from Puerperal causes	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	Nil
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	1

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births	...	...	21.8
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	14.6
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	7.2

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	23
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. **Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

(a) *Medical*.—Medical Officer of Health (part time officer).

Douglas W. A. Bull, M.D. (Cantab.)

(b) *Others*.—Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. Arthur Baker (whole time officer). He is an Associate Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and holds the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

Mr. S. J. Ricketts (whole time officer). Is assistant to the Surveyor and Inspector. He holds the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

There are no health visitors, midwives or special nurses employed by the Authority.

2. Laboratory Facilities.

The examination or analysis of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.) is carried out by the Clinical Research Association, of which your Council is a life member.

3. Ambulance Facilities.

As last year. The ambulance used is supplied by the L.M.S. Railway Co. and is kept at their Works. They also supply driver and attendants, all of whom are members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, holders of the Dewar Challenge Shield (England and Wales) and also of the Empire Cup (St. John Ambulance Brigade). These men are highly trained and most efficient in lifting and carrying.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases, who have to be removed to a Fever Hospital, are taken in an ambulance provided by the Grove Isolation Hospital, Linslade, where they are now treated.

4. Nursing in the Home.

(a) *General.* All the Wards of the Urban District are supplied with a District Nurse:— Stratford 2. Wolverton 2. New Bradwell 1.

Calverton shares with Shenley and Loughton (Rural District of Newport Pagnell), the Nurse being supplied with a motor car.

The Nursing associations are maintained by voluntary contributions, and are under the supervision of their own voluntary committees.

They also receive a grant from the County Council, whereby the Nurse can give assistance at the School Clinics, and routine examination of school children (one group being examined each term), and at the Infant Welfare Centre.

(b) *Infectious Diseases.* No provision is made, though in special cases the services of the Nurse are demanded by the Doctor, and leave is given to attend.

Midwives (6) are supervised by the Inspector of Midwives (Bucks County Council).

5. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Tuberculosis. Newport Pagnell, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

Orthopædic. Newport Pagnell, every other Thursday. A surgeon from the Wingfield Hospital, Oxford, attends once every 2 months to see new cases.

Schools. At Stratford, Wolverton and New Bradwell, open on school days for treatment by the Nurse of minor injuries, impetigo, etc.

6. Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council—

(a) *Fever.* Grove Hospital, Linslade, outside the area.

(b) <i>Tuberculosis</i>	}	Nil
<i>Maternity</i>		
<i>Children</i>		
<i>Orthopædic</i>		
<i>Other</i>		

The nearest General Hospital is at Northampton, 14 miles away.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the area.

Adoptive Legislation in force.

Name of Act	Part of Act or Section adopted	Date of adoption or operation of Act
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	In Part III— Sections 28 to 31, 34 & 35, 37 to 46, 48 & 49	11th March 1924
Private Street Works Act, 1892	The whole Act	14th February 1928
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	In Part II— Sections 15, 16, 17 & 18 Sections 20, 22, 28, 29, 32, 33 Section 19 Section 30 (part) Whole of Part VI	3rd August 1931 3rd August 1928 27th August 1928 27th August 1928 13th February 1928
Public Health Act, 1925	In Part II— Sections 13, 14 & 15 Sections 17 & 18 Section 19 Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32 & 35 Whole of Part VI	1st November 1934 14th February 1928 1st November 1934 14th February, 1928 13th February 1928
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	Section 1	1st May 1935

Byelaws.

- (1) Slaughterhouses.
- (2) Nuisances.
- (3) Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, Removal of House

Refuse, and Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools.

(4) Recreation Grounds.

(5) New Streets and Buildings.

Supplementary, confirmed July, 1931.

(6) Common Lodging Houses.

(7) Drainage of Existing Buildings.

(8) Hoardings and similar structures.

Regulations.

(1) Water Supply.

(2) Cemeteries : Rules, Regulations and Scale of Charges.

(3) Allotment Rules.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA, 1937.

1. (i) Water Supplies.

There have been no new sources of public water, nor any important extension of mains during the year. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company continue to supply Wolverton and New Bradwell with water, while at Stony Stratford the supply still remains in the Council's hands.

Except for the outlying portions of the District, the whole of the supply is piped, and has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

At Stony Stratford the water is still chlorinated, and there is a proposal to replace the present two throw ram pumps and the crude oil engines, with three throw ram pumps driven by automatically controlled electric motors. A recent bacteriological examination proved the water to be in excellent condition for all purposes. The proposed alterations are still under consideration by the Ministry of Health.

The Council drew the attention of Newport Pagnell Rural District Council to the undesirability of erecting a small sewage disposal works for Old Bradwell near the Blue Bridge water springs, where the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company draw part of their supply of water, and suggested that the sewage from the village should be discharged into the sewers owned by the Wolverton Urban District Council, and treated at the proposed central sewage disposal works. This matter is still under consideration.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

The Surveyor has maintained the three sewage works in the District in a reasonable state of repair, as the question of the sewage unification for the District has not yet been disposed of. It will be remembered that the Council unanimously adopted the Unified Scheme, which was sent to the Ministry of Health for approval, and recently a local Enquiry was held into the proposed unified scheme and the proposed utilisation of the present Stony Stratford

sewage works by Towcester Rural District Council for the treatment of sewage from Deanshanger and Old Stratford, which lie in their District, and the Council is now considering suggestions received from the Ministry as the result of the Enquiry.

During the year the Urban Council, in conjunction with the Bucks County Council, constructed a new storm water sewer at Stony Stratford, consisting of three rows of 18-inch concrete tubes from the grit chambers near the River Ouse for a distance of 535 yards, terminating near the new Church of England Senior School, where the existing storm water sewers were picked up. This will greatly reduce road flooding at Stony Stratford. The foul water sewers at New Bradwell were extended in the Bradwell Road.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The dredging of the River Ouse is still progressing favourably, and the owner of the Stony Stratford mill and mill stream has agreed to hand over his water rights to the River Great Ouse Catchment Board, which should make for better control of the river. The Council also propose to purchase a strip of land on the western bank of the mill race to facilitate the dredging of the river.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

In the older parts of the district the closets are without flushing apparatus, but this defect is being gradually remedied, and the majority of houses, being of newer construction, have modern sanitary arrangements.

A very small portion of the population of the district reside in the rural parts at Old Wolverton and Calverton, where a weekly night soil collection is carried out at both villages.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

Centralisation of Refuse Removal and Destruction has again received its share of attention during the year, and the Council obtained estimates for a refuse destructor on modern lines, but this matter is still in abeyance, as the Ministry of Health recommended the adoption of controlled tipping, and a small committee of the Council visited Friern Barnet to see this method of refuse destruction under actual working conditions. The Council have decided to make a trial of controlled tipping on the section of ground at the Wolverton sewage disposal works.

In the meantime the old refuse destructor at Wolverton is still in commission, but unable to deal adequately with the demands made upon it.

The Stony Stratford refuse is still taken to New Bradwell sewage works, where it is burnt along with the refuse from New Bradwell.

The Council have now decided to replace their horse-drawn refuse removal vehicles with three Karrier motor vehicles. The fortnightly removal of refuse from Old Wolverton and Calverton is still continued.

The regular cleansing of the Council's streets, together with County roads in the built-up areas in the district, and the County road linking up Stony Stratford, Wolverton and New Bradwell, is still continued.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area. See page 14

(iv) Shops.

The duties of the Council under section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, are receiving more attention and more shopkeepers are observing the requirements of the Act.

(v) Smoke Abatement.

The district is nearly free from the smoke nuisance. There is little to report under this heading.

(vi) Swimming Baths and Pools.

Last year the water from the Council's bathing places in the river was found to be bacteriologically impure, and the bathing places were therefore closed and have not yet been re-opened.

A letter was received from eight head teachers pointing out the lack of facilities for teaching children swimming and life saving. The Council has instructed the Surveyor to prepare plans of a covered swimming pool to cost about £10,000, and application is to be made under the Physical Training and Recreation Act, 1937, for a grant towards the cost of the scheme.

(vii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There appears to be one Council house affected by bed bugs and several other cottages likewise affected; the bug appears to have been eradicated from the Council house. Affected houses are sprayed with "Zaldecide" liquid fumigant, and the tenants are instructed to cleanse the furniture with soap and water to which a little soda has been added.

4. Schools.

All the schools are in good condition; a new Church of England Senior School has been recently completed at Stratford.

Premises and Occupations controlled by Byelaws and Regulations.

The three cinemas in the district have satisfactory sanitary accommodation.

HOUSING.

1. General Observations.

Many houses in the district were built by their occupiers and have modern conveniences. These are usually kept in a good state of repair, but in the

older parts of Stony Stratford the rather high standard of housing does not prevail, and the Council are causing the worst of the dwellings to be demolished, and others are being rendered fit through action of the Council. Displaced persons are being accommodated in King George Crescent and Ancell Road. The Council are also building 104 houses at Wolverton for the housing of the working classes, and 14 bungalows for aged persons.

2. Sufficiency of Houses.

Several estates are still being developed by private enterprise at Wolverton and New Bradwell, and the Council are also building houses and bungalows at Wolverton. This should go far to abate any shortage of houses there may be in this district.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	70
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	121
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	63
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	75
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	10
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	52

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	5
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied (informal notices only)	...	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.*

A.—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	3
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	3
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	22
B.—Number of new cases of overcrowding	...	Nil
C.—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	3
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	22
D.—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	Nil
E.—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Constant supervision has maintained a high standard of conditions under which food is prepared or where it is deposited.

(a) Milk Supply.

Cowsheds, Milkshops and Dairies are regularly inspected and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, strictly enforced.

No licence has been issued to sell “Tuberculin Tested” nor “Accredited” milk, but one licence has been issued to sell “Pasteurised” milk. Notification of changes in the list of cowkeepers is made to the County Council.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

The law relating to food is strictly enforced. The weekly market at Wolverton and also the slaughter houses in the district are regularly visited.

(c) Adulteration of Food.

The law relating to the adulteration of food is enforced by the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of cases notified was 79, a decrease of 97 compared with last year. There were 26 cases of Scarlet Fever, and of these 12 were sent to Grove Hospital.

Scarlet Fever, Wolverton 17 cases, Stratford 1, New Bradwell 8, total 26. Chicken Pox, 21 cases, a decrease of 56 on last year.

Erysipelas, 5 cases : Wolverton 2, New Bradwell 1, Stratford 2.

Diphtheria, 1 case in Stratford.

No provision is made for cases of Whooping Cough or Measles.

Neither the Schick test for Diphtheria nor the Dick test for Scarlet Fever has been used.

Cases of children attending the elementary schools who are absent suffering from an infectious disease are notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

Anthrax, epidemic jaundice, undulant fever, glandular fever, and psittacosis, no cases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING YEAR 1937.

DISEASE				Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	26	12	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)				—	—	—
Puerperal Fever		...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia		...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	26	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable:—						
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	21	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	5	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever		...	...	—	—	—

AGE PERIODS, 1937.

	Pneumonia	Chicken Pox	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Diphtheria
0—1	1				
1—2	2		1		
3—4	1		1		
5—10		20	17		
10—15	3	1	5		
15—20	1				
20—30	1				
30—45	3		1		
45—65	9		1	5	1
65 and over	5				

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	....	....	....					
1	....	....	....					
5	....	....	....				I				
10	....	....	....					
15	....	....	....	2							
20	....	....	....	I	2						
25	....	....	....	I							
35	....	....	....					2	I		
45	....	....	....	I				2			
55	....	....	....					
65 and upwards	....	....	....	I				2			
Totals				6	2	0	I	6	I	0	0

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS W. A. BULL, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.),

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1937.

This Return does not include work done under the Housing Acts (for which see page 10), and the number of inspections given under (1) General do not include inspection of Factories, Workshops, Bakehouses, Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, or Slaughterhouses, nor visits to disinfect or deal with matter under (2) House Nuisances below.

1.—General.

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	379
Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	19
Nuisances detected without complaint		...	...	...	...	28
Nuisances abated—(a) by persons responsible			...	...	...	47
(b) by Council		...	...	...	...	nil
Summonses taken out	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	nil

2.—House Nuisances.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	30
Eaves gutters and down pipes cleaned and repaired				...	...	5
Pavements repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Dirty houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other house defects remedied		...	...	...	...	30

3.—Drains, W.C.s, etc.

Drains cleansed, repaired or ventilated	...	...	...	13
New drains laid	...	...	...	101
W.C.s constructed	...	...	...	85
W.C.s repaired, including new pans	...	...	...	10
W.C.s supplied with water (formerly without)		...	...	7
Privies replaced by W.C.s	...	...	...	nil

4.—Water Supply.

Houses supplied with water (formerly without)	...	...	...	...	8
Samples of water analysed	...	...	...	...	1
Cisterns cleansed, repaired	...	..	...	...	nil
Wells cleansed, repaired	...	...	...	...	nil
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	nil

5.—Food.

Seizures of unsound food	...	...	...	...	nil
Surrenders of unsound food	...	...	...	...	2

6.—Slaughter Houses.

Number on register	...	...	...	...	11
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	76
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	12
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	9

7.—Bakehouses.

Number on register	...	...	...	...	12
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	45
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	11
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	11

8.—Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk on register	...	...	...	...	23
Number of Wholesale traders or Producers	...	...	...	...	14
Number of Milkshops, Dairies, etc.	...	...	...	...	12
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	65
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	10
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	4

9.—Factories and Workshops.

Number on register—Factories 26, Workshops 36	...	...	...	...	62
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	117
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	20
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	16

10.—Shops Acts.

Number of shops visited	...	...	...	...	122
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	200
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	41
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	20

11.—Various.

Visits to infected houses	...	...	...	...	36
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	30
Other items (e.g.) Common Lodging Houses. Houses in District.	No Common Lodging				

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR BAKER, A.R.S.I., F.I.A.S.

Causes of Death in Wolverton Urban District, 1937.

Causes of Death.							Males	Females
ALL CAUSES.							96	74
1	Typhoid fever, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
9	Respiratory tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
10	Other tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
12	General paralysis of insane, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	2	.
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	15	8
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	.	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	20	16
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
18	Other circulatory	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	9
20	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
21	Other respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	.
22	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	1	.
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
26	Other liver diseases	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
27	Other digestive	...	...	...	...	...	1	.
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
30	Other puerperal	...	...	...	...	...	.	1
31	Congenital causes, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	.	3
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	.
34	Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
35	Other defined causes	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
36	Ill-defined causes	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
Special Causes (included in No. 35)—								
	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	.	.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year								
	{ Total	...	...	...	...	...	.	3
	{ Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	.	2
	{ Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	.	1
LIVE BIRTHS								
	{ Total	...	...	...	...	...	66	71
	{ Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	62	70
	{ Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
STILLBIRTHS								
	{ Total	...	...	...	...	...	.	4
	{ Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	.	4
RESIDENT POPULATION							12,830	

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937.

England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Population				
<i>Births—</i>				
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54
<i>Deaths—</i>				
All causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3
Typhoid & Paratyphoid fevers	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Scarlet fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51
<i>Notifications—</i>				
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—
Scarlet fever	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09
Diphtheria	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93
Enteric fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44
Pneumonia	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	58	62	55	60
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0
<i>Maternal Mortality—</i>				
Puerperal sepsis	0.97	} Not available		
Others	2.26			
Total	3.23			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
<i>Maternal Mortality—</i>				
Puerperal sepsis	0.94	} Not available		
Others	2.11			
Total	3.11			
<i>Notifications—</i>				
Puerperal fever	13.93	17.59	11.52	4.15
Puerperal pyrexia				14.34

